



Steven K. Young, Director

DIA Expands Employment Requirement for ‘Active’ Nursing Assistants

DES MOINES, IOWA (December 16, 2005) – Federal regulations [§483.156(c)(2)] require that individuals who have performed no nursing or nursing-related duties for pay for a period of 24 consecutive months be removed from the nurse aide registry, now called the Iowa Direct Care Worker Registry.

Previously, the Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA) allowed nursing and nursing-related employment in licensed and certified long-term care facilities, home health agencies, hospice, intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded, private duty, hospitals and non-licensed religious homes to meet the employment requirement.

The Department is expanding the types of paid employment in nursing and nursing-related duties that will keep Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) listed on the Registry as “Active”. After inquiries by stakeholders and following consultation with the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), DIA made the decision to permit nursing and nursing-related employment in the following entities: residential care facilities, residential care facilities for the mentally retarded or for persons with mental illness, staffing agencies that employ individuals in health care settings, assisted living programs, elder group homes, adult day care centers and rural health clinics. In addition, employment in other healthcare settings will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Individuals who are in “Active” status on the state’s Registry on or after January 1, 2006, can maintain their “Active” status if the individuals have paid employment in nursing and nursing-related duties during the previous 24 consecutive months in any of the entities listed above. **Please note:** This policy will not be applied retroactively.

Entities who have not verified status or reported employment to the Registry may contact the Department for more information by contacting Greg DeMoss at (515) 281-4077 (e-mail: Greg.DeMoss@dia.state.ia.us). If a facility does not have a user id or password to access the Web site, it should contact Terry Ventling at (515) 281-6968 (e-mail: tventling@dia.state.ia.us).

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